COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

SHIPMAN'S
COMMON-SENSE BINDER

PATENTED

JANUARY 19, 1892. APRIL 19, 1904

To open binder, remove the slides from fasteners raise the fasteners to an erect position and then file papers. For punching: lay the papers on covers and mark sheets to correspond with fasteners.

If DUPLICATE is wanted ORDER 25981

ASA L. SHIPMAN'S SONS
MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.

COTTON CHATS

By the Secretary of the
DRAPER COMPANY,
HOPEDALE, MASS.

No. 47. FEBRUARY, 1906.

CRITICISMS.

We try to perfect our machinery to the point of highest efficiency consistent with the price obtainable, and the conditions of use. When machines are to be run by cheap labor they must not be too intricate, too delicate, or too hard of adjustment. Many improvements that could give better results are inadvisable since they introduce too much cost or too much complication. Inventors continually suggest ways of curing evils, that look feasible so far as results are concerned, and they often cannot understand why we do not adopt them. They fail to realize the practical difficulties in the situation, and the practical side must ever remain prominent. We often put devices in mills on trial where we get excellent reports, and then find the same mechanism little appreciated in other mills where the help is less competent. It is, therefore, necessary to adapt our machinery to the average conditions of use.

It is possible that many of our products can be criticised for errors in design, errors in construction, and errors in results. An intelligent criticism that would take note of the various facts indicated above, would be of great value to us, and we suggest that the practical men receiving this paper assist us **in assisting them** by sending written criticism of any of our machinery, on the enclosed sheet, using the accompanying stamped envelope. Those tempted to be complimentary will please refrain, as proper criticism is of greater value. A general response to this suggestion would give us a very accurate idea of just which of our machines are best capable of betterment, and just which devices in particular machinery are most needing improvement.

We tried the experiment last month of sending "Cotton Chats" to all the mills on our list, addressed "Overseer of Weaving," etc., etc., with return postals, on which those who desired to receive the Chats could give in their proper address. We have received over a thousand replies, but think there may be many more who would like to be on our list. Any overseer or master-mechanic is welcome, also any second-hand in a mill of good size. We shall send out books, calendars, etc., at intervals to the addresses received and we enclose another postal on which addresses other than those already received are requested.

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SHUTTLE BLANKS.

We find that several users of Northrop looms are buying wooden shuttle blanks cut to receive Northrop shuttle parts, from outside sources, taking parts from Northrop shuttles in which the wood is worn out to put in them. We call attention to the fact that we ourselves sell shuttle blanks cut to receive our parts, and charge a low price for the same, our regular charge for the ordinary wooden blank being 25 cents each. We cannot see how anyone can afford to sell them for less and furnish a good article. There is not sufficient profit to ourselves in this price to make us very eager for the trade, but we do like to have our looms give good results, and we frankly do not believe that shuttle blanks made by other parties will hold our shuttle parts so uniformly in proper position as our own. If the bobbins in a Northrop shuttle are not centrally held they will break more filling. This might not be detected unless a careful comparison were made.

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In an expert's report for December, we note that an overseer running 172 Northrop looms reports his cost of supplies for an entire year as less than $50. This same mill was getting 98 per cent. production and paying one-half

the price for weaving cuts that they paid on common looms in the same mill. The supplies were much less per loom on the Northrop loom than on the common.

Another mill, visited the same week, reported that the repairs for the Northrop loom cost less than one-half what they cost on the common looms in the same mill.

In a third mill, they had four weavers running 150 looms, with four battery boys at 40 cents a day each.

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The many interesting local improvements in our own town are not necessarily of corporate origin. Some are furnished by private individuals and others by the town itself through voted application of taxes.

The Park system, for instance, is a town affair, although the Draper Company pays its share of expense through its taxes. It includes some two hundred acres bordering on our river. The scenic aspect is interesting, as the picture shows.

A bath-house is provided within the Park territory and its facilities are enthusiastically patronized. Special afternoons are appointed for private use by women and girls.